



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tahoe
National
Forest

631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA
95959-2250
530-265-4531
530-478-6109 FAX

File Code: 1950

Date: May 7, 2020

Dear Interested party:

We are extending public scoping period for the proposed East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project to allow for public input on an action that has been added to the initial proposal. This Project proposes management actions to improve recreation opportunities for wheeled motorized vehicle users and restore watersheds on National Forest System lands in and around Truckee, CA. A detailed description of the Project proposal and accompanying maps are available online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57704>

The purpose of the East Zone Connectivity and Restoration Project remains the same: to reduce impacts on natural and cultural resources; maintain or enhance the quantity, quality, and diversity of recreation opportunities on motorized trails; better manage and reduce road and trail maintenance needs; and improve overall access to, connectivity on, and public enjoyment of the National Forest Recreational Trails System. Actions are needed to address increased demand in this area for trail riding opportunities, erosion and sedimentation, impacts on natural and cultural resources, ongoing trail maintenance requirements, poor trail drainage, fragmented trails, and public safety concerns.

The Project's initial proposed actions remain unchanged and include: replacing fixed wet weather seasonal closures in the Verdi Ridge area with a wet weather operating plan; constructing approximately 70 miles of motorized single track trail; designating approximately 115 acres of open riding area; making changes to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS), including rerouting segments of 5 existing roads and trails (a total of approximately 2 miles), adding 1.6 miles of existing unauthorized routes to the NFTS, changing maintenance levels on 8 road segments (a total of approximately 3.7 miles), and decommissioning 9 road segments (a total of approximately 5.3 miles); treating 25 acres to remove invasive plant infestations; obliterating and restoring approximately 41 miles of unauthorized user created road and trail segments; and improving or developing 11 staging areas for recreation. The new action, designed to address increased demand for e-bike riding opportunities, proposes an additional change to the NFTS by designating approximately 35.5 miles of existing non-motorized trails (16E05, 16E09, 16E30, 16E85, and 16E86) as open for Class 1 e-bikes.

We are seeking public input on this proposal. If you have information specific to the proposed actions that you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have issues (points of dispute, debate, or disagreement) regarding potential effects of the proposed actions, please submit your comments either electronically to: comments-pacificsouthwest-tahoe-truckee@fs.fed.us or by mail to Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, c/o Jonathan Cook-Fisher, Truckee Ranger District, 10811 Stockrest Springs Road, Truckee, California, 96161 or FAX (530) 587-6914. As we move forward in the planning process, I will assess public scoping input in light of



the Project's stated purpose and need, and where appropriate, bring concerns and issues forward into the environmental analysis conducted for the Project.

Please submit your comments within 30 days after publication of the scoping legal notice in Grass Valley's *The Union* newspaper. This Project is subject to 36 CFR 218 *Project-level Predecisional Administrative Review Process* (Parts A and B); hence, individuals and entities who submit timely, specific written comments regarding this proposed project during any designated opportunity for public comment (including this 30-day period) may file an objection. Comments already submitted during the initial 30-day period will remain part of the public record. Those individuals that would like to revise or add to their original comments may do so. New comments, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will also be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

If you do not wish to comment but would like to follow the development of this project proposal, please let us know in writing by the above-mentioned date. Submitted comments and/or addresses will be used to develop a list of interested persons for future mailings.

Detailed information about this project is available online at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57704> or by contacting John Groom, Recreation Staff Officer on the Truckee Ranger District or John Brokaw, OHV Program Manager on the Truckee Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, 10811 Stockrest Springs Rd., Truckee, CA 96161

Thank you for your interest in the management of Tahoe National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eli Ilano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

for ELI ILANO
Forest Supervisor

Cc: Jonathan Cook-Fisher, District Ranger

